

Cell phone Use by Drivers - **PROHIBITED**

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IRON 6 SENDS

Driving is a complex task and requires total concentration. Phones distract drivers and any distraction can make a person miss hearing or seeing the cues to avoid a crash.

Department of Defense and most European nations have banned the use of hand-held cell phones while driving a motor vehicle because they are safety hazards that have caused many road accidents in Europe. Penalties for having a cell phone in your hand or wedged between your head and shoulder while driving, even in slow moving traffic, are severe.

Here's a partial list of fines:

- Belgium - fines from €50 to €1,375.
- Germany – a €40 fine and one point against your license.
- Italy - fines from €68 to €275.
- Luxemburg - fines up to €74.
- Netherlands - minimum fine is €140, maximum is two months in prison or a €2,000 fine.
- Department of Defense – DOD policy is to assess three points against your license for on-post violations.

Lt. Col. Deborah K. Anderson, chief of law enforcement operations at the United States Army, Europe office of the Provost Marshal states, “People will suffer heavier penalties and can even lose their license if they caused an accident or were involved in one while using a cell phone.” Cell phone road rules apply on and off-post and will be strictly enforced.

If you have a cell phone it's best to turn the phone off as soon as you enter your vehicle; or use the voice mail box function and call people back when you finish driving. People who want to communicate while driving can buy a “hands free” device that allows the driver to keep both hands on the steering wheel. Keep in mind this device can also be distracting.

Point of contact for this message and all “Iron 6 Sends” is the 1st Armored Division Safety Office, DSN- 314-337-4833.